

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-17 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being added.

Claims 18-29 are being added.

This amendment adds and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 18-29 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 15, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,961,142 to Shiraki et al. ("Shiraki") in view of U.S. Patent 6,299,198 to Nakashima et al. ("Nakashima") and in view of U.S. Patent 6,402,189 to Gray et al. ("Gray"). Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiraki in view of Nakashima. These rejections are moot with respect to claims 1-17, which have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Insofar as these rejections may be applied to new claims 18-29, applicants respectfully traverse for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 18 and 25 each recite a door body disposed on the back of an airbag lid. While Shiraki discloses a door core 41, the core appears to correspond to the airbag lid as recited in claims 18 and 25, not the door body. While the door core 41 is separated from the air bag door D1 by foam 51 in Shiraki, Shiraki does not disclose the door core 41 to be a door body disposed on a back of an airbag lid. Thus, it appears that Shiraki does not disclose elements corresponding to the door body, the installation portion, and hinge portion of claims 18 and 25, disposed on the back of an airbag lid.

Moreover, claims 18 and 25 recite a lateral bead provided in one end of the door body near the hinge portion extending along the hinge portion to be crossed with the longitudinal beads. While Shiraki discloses reinforcing linear protrusions 50a to increase the rigidity of its door core 41, Shiraki does not disclose that the protrusions should be near any hinge.

Nakashima and Gray fail to cure the deficiencies of Shiraki.

Moreover, independent claim 25 recites “wherein the door body has two corners cut off obliquely to be made narrower in a direction from one end thereof near the hinge portion to the other to form a space between the airbag lid and the door body, the space being made larger as the door body becomes narrower in a direction from one end thereof to the other.” Shiraki fails to suggest this feature of claim 25.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims. For example, claim 22 recites “a plurality of bosses provided on the back of the airbag lid and near the hinge portion and a plurality of installation holes formed inside the lattice form in the door body, and wherein the bosses are inserted into, and are fixed with, the holes, by which the door body is mounted to the back of airbag lid.” Nakashima, which was cited for allegedly disclosing bosses, does not disclose any bosses arranged as recited in claim 22, where the bosses are inserted into installation holes formed inside the lattice form of lateral and longitudinal beads.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to

charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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